AL MA'HADUL ISLAMI

PROPHET JESUS عليه السلام

The Miraculous Birth, His Life, The Ascension And Descension

Maulana Ahmad Ali

Prophet Jesus

The Miraculous Birth, His Life, The Ascension And Descension

Maulana Ahmad Ali

PROPHET JESUS
The Miraculous Birth, His Life, The Ascension and Descension

First Published RAMADHAN 1419H (January 1999)

Published By:

Al Ma'hadul Islami
40 Greaves Street
Bradford
West Yorkshire
BD5 5PE

Telephone : 01274 575600

By Maulana Ahmad Ali

CONTENTS

CHAPTER FOUR: DESCENT AND RELATED ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

All Praise is for Allah, Lord of the Worlds. And may blessings and peace be upon the master and the seal of the Prophets, Muhammad, who was sent to all mankind, and upon his pious Family and the righteous Companions.

The present and coming generation of Muslim youth living in the West, face issues that were never faced by Muslims in the past. This is due to the fact that our predecessors were brought up and educated in Islamic environments, being taught Islamic ideas at every stage of their progress. This unfortunately is not the case today. We find that many Muslims have migrated to non-Muslim countries, and although they themselves may have kept the Islamic culture, it has been very difficult to pass this on to their young. This is mainly due to the fact that we are continuously being exposed to the non-Islamic way of life through the media, social circles and most importantly the educational system. It is virtually impossible to expect a child to appreciate Islam when he is only taught Islam for a few hours here and there. These few hours are so easily lost when rest of the day is spent in a non-Islamic environment. It is therefore vital for parents to make sure that the youth spend as much time as they can in an Islamic environment but more importantly in Islamic institutions, learning the Deen from the right people. This will not only help them to focus on the straight path but will also help them to stay

Certain issues, especially those not pertaining to the ritual (ibadat) or ethics (akhlaq) have been overlooked and neglected, even by Muslim teachers. Their importance however has become ever more evident in recent times. The most important of these issues are those which are common with other faiths such as Christianity and Judaism, especially since the education system is pro-Christian. Although Muslims have been told to respect the Ahle-Kitaab, and correctly so, but they have naively started to accept their ideas and interpretations of certain accounts. An obvious example is that of prophet Eesa (as). The Jewish/Christian belief regarding the life of Eesa (as) is totally different from that of a Muslim one.

Having recognised the negative effect this could have, this short but comprehensive booklet sets out to describe and explain the complete life of prophet Eesa (as) as described in Islam. It is based on the Qur'an, the Hadeeth and the most sound texts written by early scholars.

This booklet is essential for every household and school as it clarifies and removes the misconceptions presented by other faiths.

Chapter One

THE BIRTH OF HADRAT EESA (AS)

Birth of Maryam

Many years after Prophet Sulaiman, there lived two daughters of Fakood called Hannah and Esha. Hannah was married to Imran who at that time was the Imam of Bayt al-Maqdis, while Esha (Elizabeth) was married to the Prophet Zakariya. They were all God fearing, pious and highly respected members of their community. Although this was a very blessed household, the sisters were without children and now having reached old age both had lost hope of having any.

One day whilst Hannah was sitting under a tree she saw a chicken hatch out of an egg and this rekindled her desire to have a child. She devoutly prayed to Allah (swa) and asked for a pious child. Allah the most merciful, the All Listening answered her plea.

According to the Shari'ah of the prophets before the Prophethood of Muhammad (saw)[1], it was seen as a type of worship, to dedicate a son to the services of the mosque and to the worship of Allah (swa), keeping him free and away

[1] Shari'ah (laws & traditions) of the previous prophets has now been replaced by the Qur'an and Sunnah.

from worldly engagements.

When Hannah saw the signs of pregnancy she was overjoyed that Allah (swa) had answered her prayer despite her old age. She thanked Him for this blessing and vowed according to the custom of her time, "O Allah I dedicate the child in my womb to the service of Bayt al-Maqdis. O Allah accept this from me." Very politely and indirectly she was asking Allah (swa) for a boy, as girls were not accepted for this service.

Hanna gave birth to a baby girl and named her Maryam. Unfortunately her husband Imran did not live to see the child. On seeing that it was a girl she became depressed and was saddened at the thought of being unable to fulfil her vow, as girls were not accepted for this service. She was very upset at the time but little did she know the value of this girl and how blessed and lucky she was. This was no ordinary little girl; she was a daughter that could not be replaced by any other child, not even the boy she had so desired.

Having overcome the initial moment of despair, Hanna decided to see through her vow. She wrapped little Maryam in a piece of cloth and handed her over to the custodians and religious scholars of Bayt al-Maqdis. The priests accepted her happily even though it was against traditional custom.

Being the child of their previous Imam Imran, everyone wanted to look after her. Hadrat Zakariya felt he was

most obliged to take care of her as his wife was her aunt , but the rest disagreed. When this difference could not be settled, the priests decided to draw lots; they would throw their quills in water and he whose quill flowed against the tide would take charge of Hadrat Maryam. Hadrat Zakariya's quill was the clear winner and thus the matter was decided in his favour.

Prophet Zakariya and his wife Esha loved her very much and took good care of her. Maryam grew receiving the highest moral and spiritual training from them and when she was ready to serve the mosque a special room was constructed for her.

Maryam had been a chosen child, a special child from the day she was conceived in her mother's womb. She was kept pure, as numerous Ahadith[1] bear testimony to this; it was reported from the Prophet (saw) that "**No child is born but that Satan touches it when it is born whereupon it starts crying loudly because of being touched by Satan, except Maryam and her son (Jesus).**" (Bukhari). She was exceedingly religious and highly pious with excellent morals, she would humbly prostate to Allah (swa) and worship him sincerely all day, with great zeal. In another hadith, the Prophet (saw) said "**Many amongst men have attained perfection but amongst women none attained the perfection except Maryam, the daughter of Imran….**" (Bukhari).

[1]Authentic traditions of the Prophet (saw) (singular: hadith)

Hadrat Zakariya would bring her provisions to eat but would find food and water already besides her, not only this, he would find fruits of the warm season in winter and the fruits of winter in the summer. Amazed at seeing these unseasonable fruits besides Maryam he would exclaim, "Oh Maryam where have they come from? I am the only one with the key to your room." She would reply, "These extraordinary bounties bestowed upon me are all from Allah, The All Providing."

The Birth of Hadrat Yahya (as)

Prophet Zakariya was married to Hadrat Maryam's maternal aunt. They had no children of their own and had become old and weak. Their hair had turned silky white and their bones had become brittle and dry. Hadrat Zakariya feared that after his death his relatives, friends and companions, with their misguided intentions and wrong actions, would corrupt the good way and spoil the great religious and spiritual wealth which he had developed in the community, by the will of Allah (swa).

When he considered the extraordinary bounties bestowed upon Maryam without any material means or explanation, he hoped that Allah, the All Providing through His mercy and kindness, might bless him with a child even in his old age, who would then undertake and continue the religious service and inherit the holy seat of his father.

One night all alone he quietly and sincerely prayed to Allah (swa) "Oh Allah give me a pure and holy child, you are the hearer of prayer." His prayer was answered. Angels came to him while he was stood in prayer and gave him good tidings of a son whose name would be Yahya (John the Baptist) appointed by Allah Himself, who would confirm the word of God, the Almighty. He would become a chief and receive prophethood.

When Hadrat Zakariya received the good news he was overwhelmed yet at the same time a little curious. He asked Allah (swa) how he was going to be given a child in old age and for further reassurance, he also asked Allah (swa) to give him a sign of the pregnancy. He was told that when he is unable to speak to the people for three days and three nights despite of being in good health, he should understand that his wife had become pregnant. When that time came he became speechless and after a prescribed period his wife gave birth to prophet Yahya.

Prophet Yahya was bestowed with wisdom even in his youth and he foretold the coming of a prophet (Jesus) who would be born in an extraordinary and miraculous way.

Birth Of Hadrat Eesa (as) (Prophet Jesus)

Allah the Almighty created Adam (as) from earth without the need of a parents, Hawwa (Eve) from his rib and the rest of mankind from the natural phenomenon involving a male and female. He once again wanted to awaken the forgetful mankind by creating a man, breaking the laws of nature, without a father. He chose Maryam for this miracle and gave her the great honour of being the mother of this special and her only child, Eesa (as).

Hadrat Maryam would remain in the mosque worshipping Allah (swa) and would not leave without necessity. One day out of shame and propriety Hadrat Maryam went far away from the people, to the Eastern House which was situated to the east of Bayt al-Maqdis in order to take the bath of menses. She placed a barrier to screen herself from them. All of a sudden the angel Jibrael (as) appeared before her in human form, as she would not have been able to bear to see him in his natural form. He assumed the form of a young handsome man, as it is the habit of angels that they assume beautiful forms.

On seeing this handsome stranger in a place of privacy she naturally became frightened. Being a noble and chaste woman she was deeply disturbed as she thought he had come with a bad intention and in turn she sought for her security and uttered the words, "I take refuge in Allah, the most merciful, from you. If you fear Allah then you will

leave immediately and will not disturb me." On hearing Allah's name Jibrael (as) was struck with fear and took a step back and said, "Do not fear, I have not come with a bad intention. I am not a mortal man but an angel sent to give you good news about a blessed and fortunate son from Allah whose name will be Maseeh (Messiah) Eesa, the son of Maryam. The child shall be honourable and illustrious in both worlds and from amongst men who are the nearest to Allah. He will possess excellent morality and sublime character and be highly virtuous. Do not worry you will not have to give any explanation as the child himself will miraculously speak from the cradle and explain himself. Allah will teach him knowledge of the heavenly books (especially the Torah and the Gospel). He will teach him deep wisdom and send him as a Messenger to the Children of Israel."

When Maryam received the tidings of a son she was surprised and asked, "How can I can have a son when no man has touched me nor am I unchaste." She was not questioning the power of Allah (swa) and nor did she have any doubt in His power as she had already experience it as a child when she received fresh fruit out of heaven. She was curious to know how she was going to have this child, as the circumstances were not normal, she was pure and untouched. Jibrael (as) said, "Allah has said, it is easy for him, whenever he wants to do something he simply wills, and it is done. The child will break the established laws of nature, will be born without the touch of a human being and will be a sign in creation and a sign of Allah's power, as he will be the first and the last child to be born from a mother without

a father."

Hadrat Jibrael (as) breathed into Maryam's sleeve and she became pregnant. When the time for delivery drew near she began to fear that the people would doubt her integrity and cast slanders at the birth of a child without a father. Thus out of shame she left Bayt al-Maqdis and went to a distant town, today known as Bethlehem which is 8 miles from Bayt al-Maqdis.

After a few days she felt the first pains of pregnancy which drove her to take refuge under the trunk of a Palm tree. She was alone, helpless, without any provisions of food or water and in much pain and along with this the thought of ridicule and shame lured at the back of her mind. In her anguish she uttered, "Only if I had died before this and became forgotten." Allah (swa) who comes to the aid of his people sent Jibrael (as) for the second time to console her.

She was resting in a high place. Hadrat Jibrael (as) called her from beneath, "do not sorrow and grieve, Allah has brought forth a spring for you, shake the trunk of the Palm tree and fresh ripe dates will fall upon you. Eat the fresh ripe dates and quench your thirst by drinking the pure water of the spring and soothe your eyes by seeing the pure son and do not worry about the future as Allah will remove all your difficulties." Hadrat Jibrael (as) also told her that if anybody wanted to speak to her or enquire about the child, she should not talk to them and tell them by sign that she had kept the fast of silence. These marvels and Divine words were a source of satisfaction, peace and comfort to

her. She was consoled that who better than Allah (swa) to take charge of her.

After giving birth she went back to her people, carrying the new born child in her arms. On seeing the Virgin Mary carrying a child the people were shocked and amazed. They couldn't believe what they were seeing and exclaimed, "O Maryam you have done a most monstrous thing," a virgin claiming to have a child. "Your father was a good man and your mother a chaste woman, they had been good at all times, how did you get this child?" Hadrat Maryam did not reply as she was told by Jibrael (as), instead she pointed towards the child.

Her silence made them even more angry, firstly according to them she had committed a grievous and wicked sin and secondly she was telling them to ask the infant where he had come from. They asked "O Maryam how can we talk to a child in a cradle." Whilst the people were slandering his mother, hadrat Eesa (as) was suckling, he then left the milk, leaned on his right side, pointed with his right index finger and ***said,*** "I am the servant of Allah, He has given me the Book and made me a Prophet. He has blessed me wherever I am and has instructed me to perform prayer and pay zakat till I remain alive and he has made me dutiful to my mother and has not made me arrogant and unfortunate. Salaam (peace) be upon the day I was born and the day I die and the day I shall be raised alive." When the people heard this amazing speech with words of wisdom flowing from the tongue of a new born child they were shocked,

taken aback and silenced. This beautiful speech cleared his mother's name and elevated her status. The people accepted his birth as a miracle, a sign from God and began to respect Hadrat Maryam as they had done before.

Chapter Two

THE PROPHETHOOD

Childhood

Hadrat Eesa (as) grew up like the rest of the children of his time. When the time was right his mother sent him to seek religious knowledge and despite his youth, he acquired a great amount. He was divinely inspired and taught the Torah (the Jewish book). He surpassed his colleges and challenged his teachers, his intelligence and brilliance simply amazed everybody.

He uncovered Jewish lies in many matters which they claimed related to Allah (swa) though in reality they were far from the truth and nor were they even the verses of the original Torah. He would challenge them in religious matters and speak to them with such wisdom and eloquence that the audience would be left astounded and the scholars speechless.

Authority and influence of the Jewish scholars began to be questioned, people began to talk. The Jews fearing for their elite position began to hate and conspire against Hadrat Eesa (as). Their hatred was also shared by a tyrant

king called Hirdos, who had earlier heard from astronomers that Eesa (as) would one day become a leader. Both fearing for their positions in there own way, wanted to see an end to him. Fearing for his safety and according to divine inspiration Hadrat Maryam took him to Egypt. On hearing about the death of the tyrant king she returned back to Shaam (region comprising south Lebanon, Syria and Palestine) with Eesa (as).

The Death of Hadrat Zakariya (as)

Maryam and her child Eesa (as) lived with and were under the care of prophet Zakariya, the Jews seeing him responsible for the child, planned to kill him.

Fearing for his life Hadrat Zakariya ran away from them. He happened to pass by a tree, the tree on seeing him, opened up to give him refuge. Hadrat Zakariya hid inside the tree but the Shaitaan caught the border of his garment, pointing him out to the Jews who were searching for him. The Jews cut down the tree, killing the Prophet of Allah.

State Of the Jews

Intoxication of pride and arrogance had completely corrupted their minds and they had fallen into the darkness

of desire and greed. They had left the teachings of Musa (as) and other Prophets and deviated from the right path. They ignored Divine lessons and had become deaf to the words of God and his Prophets. They had become prone to greed and wicked ambitions and thus rejected that which didn't agree with their wishes. Their religion was to follow their lust and only their lust.

They believed they were the chosen race and took great pride in their lineage, since many of the previous prophets had come from amongst them, believing that Allah's (swa) favour was upon them. They'd forgotten about the basic human morals such as charity, piety and generosity, as their hearts had become hard. Allah (swa) says in the Qur'an; "...**your hearts were hardened and became as stones or even worse in hardness. And indeed, there are stones out of which rivers gush forth...**" (Surah Al-Baqarah).

They were completely engrossed in the luxuries of this life, which had made them forget Allah (swa). They had become proud, arrogant, crossed the limits many times, committed sin and crime as if there was no consequence, their hearts were full of evil. Murder, adultery, stealing, dealings with usury (riba) was rife in their community. Hatred, jealousy, slandering, backbiting, swearing were not regarded as sin. They took pride in committing sin. Allah (swa) says "**And they were covered with humiliation and misery, and they drew on themselves the Wrath of Al-**

lah. That was because they used to disbelieve the Ayat (proofs, signs, revelations) of Allah and killed the Prophets wrongfully. That was because they disobeyed and used to transgress the bounds (commit crime and sin)." (Surah Al-Baqarah).

In contrast, the Torah was a glorious example of Divine Light and Divine Guidance but to justify their whims and desires they made alterations to it. They added a few things here and there according to their own will, ignored some parts and claimed it was all from Allah (swa). Allah (swa) says in Surah Al-Baqarah; "**Then *woe* to those who write the Book with their own hands and then say, 'This is from Allah,' to purchase with it a little price! *Woe* to them for what their have written and woe to them for that they earn thereby**." Their scholars made unlawful that which was lawful and made lawful that which was unlawful. The masses had raised them to divine status, put them on a pedestal and they in turn deceived them to collect donations and gifts to maintain their honour and position.

They preached and embedded in the minds of many that religious education was a privilege of only the noble caste and that they were the key to mercy, forgiveness and the gardens of paradise, nobody getting close to Allah (swa) without their intercession. Horrified at the sight of losing their worldly benefits, unmindful and ungrateful of Allah (swa), the Jewish scholars brought down the moral and religious downfall of whole of the society. They had sold their divine scriptures for a small price.

Prophethood

Whenever societies and nations needed guidance or deviated from the teachings of God and his Prophets, Allah (swa) out of his mercy would send a messenger to guide them and to bring them out from the depths of darkness into light. The Children of Israel were in desperate need of guidance as they had exceeded all limits and boundaries and were in total darkness.

When Hadrat Eesa (as) was thirty years old Allah (swa) honoured him with prophethood and delivered him as a messenger to the children of Israel. He brought the same message as the previous prophets because the source of all religions is the same i.e. God himself, and he called them to the same message, i.e. belief in the one Allah, his messengers, angels, books, the last day, fate (good and bad) and in life after death. He preached, "O Children of Israel, I have come with prophethood and in order to make clear some of the points in which you differ. Fear Allah and obey me. Allah is my lord and your lord. This is the only straight path which leads to salvation in this life and the hereafter."

He primarily emphasised the basic principles, as they are the foundations of religion. He told them to worship the one Allah and regard him as their God and his God. He never allowed them to conceive or forge the relation of Sonship between God Almighty and himself. He told them that the key to paradise and the pleasure of Allah (swa) is in

tawheed (Oneness of God), piety and obedience to the Messenger of Allah. By delivering inspired sermons he tried to instil in their hearts the love of Allah and the love of fellowmen. He told them not to get engrossed in this life as the true and permanent destination is the next life and in the next world and he dismissed all the false and wrong beliefs that had crept into the divine teachings of the previous Prophets.

Glad tidings Of Prophet Muhammad (saw)

Hadrat Eesa (as) confirmed the validity of the Torah, which was revealed to Hadrat Musa (as) and he also brought glad tidings of the coming of a final messenger after him. He also told them that the kingdom of God would be taken away from them and given to a nation more worthy of it, as this final prophet and messenger would not come from amongst them. In John 14:15-16 it states; "If you love me (Jesus), keep my commandments. And I will pray to the Father and He shall give you *another* Comforter (i.e. Muhammad (saw)) that he may abide with you forever (i.e. his religion, Islam)." Also the Qur`an says, **"And when Jesus Son of Mary said, 'Children of Israel, I am indeed a messenger to you, confirming the Torah which is before me and giving good tidings of a messenger who shall come after me and his name will be Ahmad."** In Surah Al-Baqarah Allah (swa) says, **"Those to whom We gave the Scripture (Jews & Christians) recognise him as they**

recognise their sons. But verily, a party of them conceal the truth while they know it (i.e. the qualities of Muhammad (saw) are written in the Torah and the Gospel).”

Call To Good Deeds and Morality

Hadrat Eesa (as) spent day and night conveying the message of Allah (swa). He called them to good deeds and morality and condemned the evil that was rife in there community. He condemned falsehood, dishonesty, hypocrisy, injustice, cruelty, pride, ungratefulness, lust, violence, adultery, stealing, jealousy, hatred and selfishness. He called them to show mercy and respect for mankind, show kindness to the poor and needy. He enjoined upon them to have faith and trust in one God, show repentance, to have piety, give charity, be generous, to have sympathy, be truthful, have purity (of mind and soul), be honest, show patience, kindness and love to one another and to bé fair in transactions.

Deaf and Blind

Despite his efforts the Children of Israel did not respond and accept the message open heartedly, as they should have done. They rejected his ministry and became deaf and blind to the words of God and his Prophet. They

jeered, mocked, assaulted and reviled the prophet of Allah. They cursed Eesa (as), poured blame on him and even accused his pious mother of impurity. However Hadrat Eesa (as) like the rest of the prophets stood firm, held his ground, bore all the hardships and kept on conveying the message of Allah (swa) as he was ordered to do.

Miracles

All prophets of Allah (swa) are given miracles to help them in their difficult task and every Prophet is given a miracle according to his era and society. The Holy Prophet (saw) was given the beautiful Qur`an, as his era was the era of literacy and poetry. Hadrat Musa (as) was given the miracle of the staff, which could change into a snake, as his era was the era of magic, tricks and sorcery. Hadrat Eesa (as) like the prophets before him was also supported by numerous amazing miracles, probably the most, to show that he was a true messenger from Allah (swa).

His era was the era of the Hakims and doctors, many breakthroughs had been made in the field of medicine and thus he was blessed with miracles which would prove His superiority over their most distinguished practitioners.

Words in infancy His first miracle was to defend his mother, as an infant, against the false accusations of his enemies.

Birds from Clay One of the most amazing miracles he showed them was that he would take some mud and make a figure of a bird. He would then breath into it; this bird of mud would become alive by the will of Allah (swa) and fly of into the air.

Cure For The Leper And Blind Though we live in the 20th century and have made tremendous advances in the field of medicine we still have no cure for the leper or those born blind. The second miracle given to Hadrat Eesa (as) was that he would give eyesight to those born blind and cure the leper, curing those who the doctors and Hakims had given up hope with.

Life to the Dead In desperation the Jews demanded that he bring somebody back to life if he was a true Prophet. Hadrat Eesa (as) brought many people back to life. The dead (man or woman) would come out of the grave, speak to those who knew and recognised them and thereafter he or she would die and be buried again.

One day Hadrat Eesa (as) happened to pass a woman sitting next to a grave crying. He asked, "What's the matter?" She replied, 'My only child has died and I have vowed that I will not leave until Allah gives me death or brings her back to life so I can have a last look at her.' Hadrat Eesa (as) asked, "Will you return after you have had a look at her." 'Yes' she replied. He prayed 2 rakats, stood next to the grave and said, "Stand and come out in the name of Allah." The grave shook. He called for the second time, the grave

broke and after the third she came out of her grave shaking the dust of her head. He asked her why she took time in coming out. She replied, "After the first call an angel was sent to put me back together, after the second my soul was returned and after the third I thought it was the Day of Judgement and through fear my hair, eyebrows and eye-lashes have become white." She turned to her mother and said, "O mother why did you ask that I be brought back to life, so that I can taste the difficulty of death for the second time? O mother be patient, I am not in need of this world any longer, O Eesa (as) ask Allah to give me death." Hadrat Eesa (as) prayed to Allah (swa), she died and was buried again. This still did not convince the stubborn, heedless Jews that he was the prophet of Allah (swa).

Knowledge about Hidden Things Even after bringing the dead back to life the Jews cheekily asked, "Show us another miracle. Tell us what we ate yesterday in our houses and what we have stored for tomorrow?" He would by name, inform everybody what he had eaten and what he had stored. They would become amazed and bewildered and deep down in their hearts they knew all this could not be possible if He was not a true Prophet. He would answer all their questions fully, the answers to which only Allah (swa) had knowledge of, but still it seemed to make no difference to them.

The Perfect Example

Not only did he call them to leave the darkness of greed and desire but he showed them in practice so that it may have a greater impact on the Children of Israel. But unfortunately their hearts and eyes were impervious to the truth. He lived a pure, noble, Godly life and worshipped Allah (swa) day and night. His compassion for the sinners and sufferers was truly admirable. He was gentle, selfless, humble, serving his friends and showing mercy to his foe. His shoes were made out of hair and he would eat the leaves from the trees, he had no dwellings of his own, no horse to ride or any material wealth to show. He would move from one place to another conveying the message of Allah (swa).

Havarees (the disciples)

He began to spend more time with the poor and needy, as their hearts were more clean and open. They were willing to listen, accept the truth and change their ignorant ways.

One day he passed by some washermen, who were washing clothes, he said to them, "Why do you spend all day washing clothes? Come with me and I will teach you the washing of hearts." Some of them accompanied him and became known by the name of Havarees. They became his disciples and helped him to convey the message of Allah.

The Table of Food from Heaven

Hadrat Eesa (as) would patiently bear the hardships they would encounter and would be content with enough food to survive on but the Havarees were not as strong or as disciplined and sometimes could not bare the hunger.

One day his helpers requested him to pray to Allah (swa) and ask him to send a table from heaven full of food. He told them to fear Allah and not to ask for such things. They replied, "We are in need of food. We are not testing our Lord whether he will grant our wish or not, we beg for the sake of blessing and that it may remain a miracle." Hadrat Eesa (as) prayed and Allah (swa) sent down a table from heaven on a Sunday, which now is a festival day for the Christians. It had all types of delicious food and was sent down for forty days. Soon everyone began to eat from the table and the Children of Israel began to mumble and groan, take fault out of the food and began to show ingratitude. Thus Allah (swa) ordered that only the poor and needy should eat from it. They paid a deaf ear to Allah's command and the rich continued to eat from the table, due to this disobedience many were changed into animals such as pigs.

Chapter Three

Ascent To The Heavens

Raised up to the Heavens

The Jews hatred for Hadrat Eesa (as) had became deeper ever since childhood as he had uncovered their lies and spoke to them with such wisdom that even their scholars were made speechless. Day by day their hatred increased, they slandered him, accused his mother of impurity and lewdness. They tried many things to silence him but he stood firm and kept on conveying the message of Allah (swa).

Slowly people began to listen to him, although they numbered only a few and were mainly the poor and weak, this still raised concern among the chiefs. Fearing they would loose their honour and leadership if he remained amongst them, they secretly planned to kill him. The Jews had made a plan and Allah (swa) also made a plan. The Jews had planned to kill him while Allah (swa) had planned to save him and raise him to the heavens.

The Jews approached the King and very cunningly and deceitfully managed to convince him that Hadrat Eesa

(as) was a heretic, a mad man who wanted to the change the Torah thereby misleading the people into disbelief. They told him that people were becoming inclined towards him and were listening to his message open heartedly and if he were not stopped very soon, he would become their leader and pose a threat to the government. The King was enraged and ordered his arrest. The Jews prepared for his arrest.

Meanwhile Allah (swa) informed Hadrat Eesa (as) of the evil plot but consoled him that no harm would reach him. Allah (swa) told him that their wicked plot was in vain and that he would not die at their hands as Allah would bless him with a greater dignity by raising him to the heavens, untouched.

When Hadrat Eesa (as) sensed the evil he called the disciples and asked them who would help and propagate Allah's religion, the divine religion which Jesus brought to them. The disciples promised Hadrat Eesa (as) that they would remain the helpers of Allah's religion and convey the divine message to the people.

Meanwhile the devil played his part. The devil informed those Jews who were looking to arrest and crucify him, where he was staying. Four thousand men were dispatched. They had surrounded the house and Hadrat Eesa (as) said to his disciples, "Who is willing to go outside and give his life for Gods cause and in return he will be with me in paradise." One of the disciples volunteered. Hadrat Eesa

(as) gave him his clothes. He wore his clothes and Allah (swa) changed his appearance to look like that of Eesa (as). Allah (swa) raised Eesa (as) to the heavens and saved him from the Jews. The disciple stepped outside, the Jews on seeing him, thought he was Eesa (as), arrested and crucified him. It his he who died on the cross and not Hadrat Eesa (as) as wrongly held by many.

Beliefs Regarding the Crucifixion

The Muslims, Christians and Jews all hold different views regarding the crucifixion and the death of Eesa (as), the correct belief being that of a Muslim as it will be shown.

Jewish belief The Jews believe that:

a) Hadrat Eesa (as) was crucified, died on the cross and was buried
b) He did not come back to life after death.

Christian Belief The Christians believe that:

a) Hadrat Eesa (as) was crucified by the Jews and that he died on the cross.
b) was resurrected back to life after his death and was then raised to the heavens by God, the Almighty.

All these beliefs are ***wrong*** as they not only contradict the Qur`an and Ahadith, but on close examination they are also

inconsistent with their *own* scriptures.

Muslim belief The Muslims believe that the body crucified was not that of Eesa (as) but that of a disciple. Eesa (as) was raised by Allah (swa) with body and soul intact and saved from the Jews. He did not die but he is alive in the heavens and will return before Qiyamaah (the promised Messiah) to this world for a second time. He will kill the Dajaal (Antichrist), marry and have children, live for a period of time and then die a physical death and be buried alongside the Holy Prophet (saw) in Medina.
This is the correct belief as it is consistent with the following verses of the Qur`an and Ahadith;

1) Allah (swa) says in Surah An-Nisa: "**They did not kill him and nor did they crucify him but the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man and those who differ there in are full of doubts. They have no certain knowledge. They are following nothing but conjecture for surely they did not kill him but Allah raised him up to him.**"

This verse of the Qur`an tells us:

a) The Jews did not kill Jesus and nor did they crucify him.
b) Furthermore it states that the Jews and Christians are wrong to believe that he was crucified and is dead.
c) It clearly states that the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man and it is that man they killed and not Jesus.

d) Allah (swa) raised him to the heavens alive with body and soul.
e) That whoever holds any opinion other than what the Qur`an has stated (i.e. believes that he was crucified) is wrong. He is guessing and has no certain knowledge.

2) In Surah Ale-Imran, Allah (swa) says; "**When Allah said, Jesus I will take thee to me and raise thee to me and I will purify thee of the unbelievers…**"

This verse tells us that Allah (swa) raised Jesus with body and soul to the heavens.

3) Allah (swa) says in Surah An-Nisa; "**There is not a single section of the people of the book but that will certainly believe in Jesus before his death and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them.**"

This verse indicates that before the death of Prophet Jesus everyone from the people of the book (Jews and Christians) will believe in him. Jews and Christians will relinquish their incorrect belief and accept Islam before Eesa (as) dies, which is not the case at present.

From the above verses the conclusion is clear that Prophet Jesus was not crucified and is not dead.

There are also many Ahadith which support the above verses and conclusions.

1) The Prophet (saw) said, "**By him in whose hand my soul is in, surely the son of Maryam (Jesus) will come down amongst you as a just ruler. He will break the cross, kill the pig and abolish the jizya[2]. Wealth will be in such abundance that no one will care about it and a single prostration in prayer will be better than the world and all that is in it.**"(Bukhari)

2) In another hadith Allah's messenger has said, "**How will you be when the son of Mary (Jesus) descends amongst you, and will judge people by the law of *Qur'an* and not by the law of *Gospel.***"(Bukhari)

These Ahadith clearly show that Eesa (as) is alive and not dead as the dead do not descend and break crosses or kill pigs! Furthermore it explains that he is in the heavens and will return to the earth for a second time as a just ruler and elevate Islam by bringing an end to Christianity (breaking the cross) and rule by what was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (saw).

These are just some of the many verses of the Qur`an and Ahadith which confirm the Muslim belief and point out the fallacies and lies of the Jewish and Christian claims.

[2] tax levied on non-Muslim citizens of a Muslim state, contributing towards their welfare

Christian-Muslim Belief Regarding Trinity

The Christians themselves hold conflicting views regarding Hadrat Eesa (as).

a) Some believe that he is God.
b) Some believe that he was the Son of God.
c) Some belief that he is God, Son of God, and the Holy Spirit. One is three and three is one *-trinity!*

The Christian church itself cannot understand and has failed to explain this belief and thus regards the doctrine of 'Trinity' as a mystery. Confusing, since they themselves made it up 17 hundred years ago! Prophet Jesus never mentioned it and the notion was conjured up by a Egyptian deacon some three centuries after Eesa (as) departure (325 A.D) at a time when Roman paganism was influencing Christian doctrines.

We Muslims believe that the concept of 'Trinity' is a load of nonsense as one cannot be three and three cannot be one. Hadrat Eesa (as) is not God or the Son of God as there is only one God who created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. Our God (Allah) is the Almighty, All Powerful, All Independent and is not needy as only the needy are in need of children. Hadrat Eesa (as) was only a messenger like the messengers before him and he himself called people to the worship of the one Allah and not to his worship. The evidence is in their own scriptures if they care

to read them!

1. "One came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, ***Why callest thou Me Good?*** There is none Good ***but One, that is God***..." Mathew 19:16-17

2. In another verse "***I can of mine own self Do Nothing***..." John 5:30.

These are just some[3] of the Biblical verses that tell us clearly that Jesus was not God but was dependent on God and that he differentiated himself from God i.e. two different entities and how can one be dependent on oneself? You can only be dependent on something else.

As to the blasphemous accusation that Jesus was the Son of God, this is also a grave misunderstanding (seems to be inherent with the Christians). 'Son of God' was a harmless expression in those days. God seems to have had thousands of sons according to the Old Testament and theology (Jews themselves believe in monotheism). We must divorce this notion from the paganised Christian doctrine, again quoting some of their own scriptures:

1. "Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth which was the son of Adam, which was the ***Son of God***." Luke 3:18

2. "That the ***Sons of God*** saw the daughters of men that

[3]Detailed discussion is beyond the scope of this article.

they were fair: and they took wives of all which they chose. ....when the Sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." Genesis 6:2 & 4

3. "...thou (O David) ***art My Son***; this day have I (God) begotten thee." Psalms 2:7

These are just a few of the verses exposing the false claims of the Christians – either they accept all these as His Sons or reject the notion of Jesus the son of Maryam being His only son.

The following verses of the Qur`an shed light on Muslim belief and reject the concept of the Divinity, the Sonship and the Trinity of Jesus.

1. Allah (swa) says in Surah An-Nisa: **"O people of the book! (i.e the Jews & Christians) Do not exaggerate in the matter of your religion and do not say in the glory of but solid fact. The Messiah Jesus, Son of Mary is but the messenger of God and his word that he brought to Mary and a spirit from him. So believe in God and His messenger and do not say there are three Gods. Refrain from utterance, better it will be forgiven. No doubt, God is only One God. It is not worthy of him that he should have a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth and Allah is sufficient as a guardian."**

This verse clearly indicates: -

a) Hadrat Eesa (as) is not the Son of God or God himself as wrongly believed by the Christians.
b) He is the son of a mortal woman, Mary and therefore a man.
c) Hadrat Eesa (as) is the messenger of Allah, created merely by the order of God without any masculine agency. God breathed a spirit from Himself through the angel Jibrael into Hadrat Maryam.
d) There are no three Gods or three in one but only one Allah.

Allah is pure and has no child and is in no need of a child. When the heaven and the earth and every thing between them belong to him and all are his creations and servants, then how can anyone be his partner or son? He is sufficient as a guardian without any external assistance. If Allah, The Almighty can create Adam, the very first man from earth then does he have a problem creating another man from only a mother?!

2. Allah says in Surah Al-Ma`idah: "**Surely those who said, 'God is the Messiah, Son of Mary, became kaafir. And the Messiah said, 'O Children of Israel worship God who is my lord and who is your lord. No doubt whoso associates with God anything God prohibited the paradise for him and his refuge is in hell and no one is the helper of the sinners. Surely**

those who said, God is the one of the three, became kaafir whereas there is no God but one God. And if they do not refrain from that which they say then there shall surely affect those of them who stick to kufr a painful punishment.”

This verse of the Qur`an tells us:

a) Those that say Jesus is Son of God are kaafir (unbelievers who are condemned to eternal hellfire).
b) Jesus himself called the Children of Israel to worship Allah and not him, as he was not God.
c) He told them that Allah is his lord and their lord.
d) Those who associate partners with Allah (shirk –the greatest sin) will never enter Jannah. They will be thrown in the fire of Hell.
e) Those that believe in the Trinity are also kaafir and if they do not recant what they say, then Allah will punish them severely in the fire of Hell.

3. The Qur`an says in Surah Maryam that Hadrat Eesa (as) said,

“I am the servant of Allah, he has given me the scripture and made me a prophet.”

This verse of the Qur`an clearly indicates that Hadrat Eesa (as) was a servant of Allah and a prophet and not God or the son of God.

The above verses of the Qur`an ***and*** their own scriptures have made it crystal clear that Jesus is not God or the Son of God but a messenger of Allah like all other prophets. Those who believe otherwise are kaafir and will be severely punished in the fire of hell.

The Bible

Muslims believe that Injeel (Bible) was the book of Allah, revealed to Hadrat Eesa (as). The Qur`an bear's testimony to this as Allah (swa) says in Surah Hadeed: "**We sent Eesa, Son of Maryam and gave him the Bible.**"

The Bible we have today is not the revealed book as it has been changed and altered many a time by the clergy[4]. Since it no longer remains in its original form, we do not believe and trust the Bible that we have today. The Qur`an also tells us that the book has been changed and tampered with. Allah says, "**Then *woe* to those who write the book with their own hand and say it is from Allah, to purchase with it a little price....**"

Unlike the previous Scriptures, the Holy Qur'an has been protected from change. Allah (swa) says in Surah Al-Hijr "**Verily We: It is We who sent down the Qur'an and surely, *We will* guard it (from corruption).**" It is a clear fact that more than 1400 years have elapsed and not a ***single*** word of the Qur'an has been changed, although many have

[4]you will find many revised editions, no two copies being the same, giving rise to contradictions and inconsistencies

challenged this by introducing or deleting verses from it, but have failed miserably and will continue to do so.

Chapter Four

Descent and Related Issues

Who Is the Promised Messiah?

Qadiyanees and the Promised Messiah. The founder of the Qadiyanee movement, Mirza Ghulam Qadiyanee made many bold claims. As well as claiming prophethood he claimed to be the Promised Messiah and in order to justify his claim he said Prophet Jesus would not make another appearance because he died a natural death some time after the event of crucifixion. According to him he had been nursed by one of his disciples who took him secretly to Kashmir where he lies buried!

Muslims and the Promised Messiah. The Muslims believe that:

- Mirza Ghulam was **not** the Promised Messiah but an impostor who falsely claimed prophethood in the 19th century, moulded secretly by the British/Indian government to divide the Muslims. Mirza Ghulam and his followers (Qadiyanees, Mirzais, Ahmadees) are ***not*** Muslims but the most dangerous enemies of Islam. In a hadith narrated by Abu Huraira, Allah's Messenger (saw) said, "**My similitude in comparison with other prophets before**

me, is that of a man who has built a house nicely and beautifully, except for a place of *one* brick in a corner. The people go around about it and wonder at its beauty, but say: 'Would that this brick be put in its place!' So *I* am that brick, and I am *the last of the prophets."*

- Muslims believe that Hadrat Eesa (as) is not buried in Kashmir as he is not dead but is alive in the heavens as raised by Allah (swa). Allah says in the Qur`an; "**They did not kill him and nor crucify him but the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man. Those who differ there in are full of doubts. They have no certain knowledge. They are following nothing but conjecture, surely they did not kill him but Allah raised him up to him.**" (Surat An-Nisah)

- Muslims also believe that the Promised Messiah ***is*** Prophet Eesa (as), Son of Mary, who will descend before the end of time as the Ahadith clearly indicate;

Hadrat Abu Huraira (r.a) reports that the Prophet (saw) said, "**I swear by the one in whose hands my life is in, the Son of Maryam shall descend among you as a just ruler. He will break the cross and kill the swine and he will put an end to war…**".(Bukhari)

"**What will you be like when the Son of Maryam will descend among you and a person among you will discharge the office of Imam (leader in prayer).**" (Bukhari)

On another occasion the Prophet (saw) said, "**The dooms-**

day shall not be established before the descent of Eesa (as) Son of Maryam…."(Bukhari)

From the above we learn the following about the Promised Messiah;

a) His name will be Eesa (as) and his mother's name will be Maryam.
b) He will descend from the heavens before the end of time and in the light of Nawas-b-Samaan's hadith, he will descend at the white minaret in Damascus wearing two garments slightly dyed with saffron and his hands will be placed on the wings of two angels.
c) Once he has descended he will rule justly for many years, he will kill the pig, elevate Islam by breaking the cross and putting an end to Christianity and there will be so much wealth in his time that the receiving of zakat (tax for the needy) will be discarded.

The impostor's name was Ghulam Ahmad and not Eesa (as) and his mother's name was Chiragh and not Maryam. He did not descend from the heavens, he new nothing about governing, instead of killing the pig he enjoyed eating it and he did not put an end to Christianity but elevated it and instead humiliated Islam. If we look at Mirza Ghulam we can see that he was not the Promised Messiah or even a prophet as none of the above details fit him. Instead of dying a peaceful death like all prophets of God, he died a filthy and dirty death like he deserved.

In the light of the above evidence from the Qur'an

and Sunna it is quite unbelievable to think how he and his ignorant followers can justify their outrageous claims, blatantly denying and ignoring the evidence which they claim to believe in! For this reason the Muslim scholars from all corners of the globe have denounced him and his followers as ***Kaafirs*** (non-Muslims) of the worst kind, even worse than the cursed Jews.

Imam Mahdi, the Dajaal and the return of Eesa (as)

Imam Mahdi[5] will appear at a time when people are experiencing great fear and suffering and are afflicted with calamity and disasters to the point that the living will envy the dead. Allah (swa) will send Imam Mahdi to help the Muslims against kuffr. He will fill earth with justice, prosperity and equality just as it was previously filled with oppression. The inhabitants of the heavens and the earth will be pleased with him and even the birds and wild animals will rejoice under his rule.

He will fight and will be victorious in many wars resulting in much war possessions (booty), distributing the wealth according to the Sunnah of the Prophet (saw).

One of the cities he will conquer will be Constantinople (Istanbul). It will be conquered without a fight. The Muslims will not be required to shoot a single arrow. They will recite the Takbir (Allah ho Akbar) 3 times, everytime

[5] one of the major signs of Qiyamah

they recite the Takbir one of its sides will collapse. After conquering it with Takbir they will enter and acquire the booty, the like of which has never been seen. While they are dividing the war possessions someone will proclaim, "Verily Dajaal has appeared in your lands." They will leave everything and make their way back home. The Muslims will find that this was a false rumour. However a few days after the arrival of Imam Mahdi and the Muslim army in Syria, the Dajaal will truly have appeared from the east somewhere between Syria and Iraq and would have made himself known at a place called 'Yahooda' in Isfahan, Iran.

The Dajaal will claim to be Allah –although the word Kafir will be written on his forehead, and he will deceive people by showing them extraordinary things. For this will be a testing time for the believers as Allah will test his servants with Dajaal and by the miracles that he will be allowed to perform. It is narrated that no tribulation on earth since the creation of Adam will be worse than the tribulation of the Dajaal. The hidden treasures of the earth will come out at his command, he will cure the blind and the leper, and he will be accompanied with devils, trying to mislead people.

He will have amazing powers and the people will say, "Can anybody do something like this except the Lord?" Many, especially the weak believers will accept him. He will travel to many lands in 40 days –like a cloud driven by a wind. The first day will be as long as a year, the second as long as a month, the third as long as a week and the rest like

our days. He will cause fitnah (test, trial tribulation, oppression) and destruction wherever he goes. He will head towards Makkah and Madinah and try to enter these holy cities but will be met with angels with swords guarding these cities who will chase him away everytime he tries to enter. Having failed to enter these cities he will gather his forces and head towards Syria. Imam Mahdi will have arranged the Muslim army and be waiting for him.

Imam Mahdi will be on the verge of leading the Muslims in the morning prayer when Hadrat Eesa (as) will descend to the White Minaret in the east of Damascus, wearing two garments slightly dyed with saffron, placing his hands on the wings of two angels. All those present will instantly recognise him, as he will look exactly like the Prophet (saw) had described him in the Ahadith. He will resemble the sahabi (a companion of the Prophet (saw)) Urwa ibn Masood, the colour of his skin will be reddish white, he will be well built and his hair will be soft reaching to his ears. When he lowers his head, beads of perspiration will fall from it and when he raises his head, beads like pearls will scatter from it. Every kaafir who smells his sweet breath will die and his breath will reach as far as he can see.

On seeing Hadrat Eesa (as), Imam Mahdi will take a few steps back inviting Hadrat Eesa (as) to lead the prayer, but Hadrat Eesa (as) will place his hands on the Imam's shoulder and say, "Go forward and lead the prayer as the

Iqamah (call for prayer) was made for you." Thus Imam Mahdi will lead the prayer.

After the prayer Hadrat Eesa (as) will say, "Open the gate." The gate will be opened and the Dajaal will be waiting behind it with an army of 70,000 Jews each armed with a sword and shield. On seeing Hadrat Eesa (as) among the Muslims, the Dajaal will begin to dissolve like salt dissolves in water and to flee towards Bayt al-Maqdis. Hadrat Eesa (as) will call to him, "You will remain alive until I strike you with my spear." Hadrat Eesa (as) will catch up with him at the Eastern gate of Ludd[6] and kill him with a small spear. The Muslims thereafter will defeat and root out Dajaal's army. On that day the Jews will not be able to hide behind anything. Everytime they try to hide behind a stone, a wall, a tree (except a Boxthorn) or an animal, by the will of Allah (swa) they will speak out, ***"O Muslim, O servant of Allah there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him."***

Wisdom In the descension of Hadrat Eesa (as) before the end of time

The 'ulama of the Ahl As-Sunnah have given many different reasons for the return of Hadrat Eesa (as) to this world for the second time and no other prophet. A few are listed below;

[6] The Zionist state of Israel has built an airport at this place called Lydaa Airport

3) The Jews believed that they had killed Hadrat Eesa (as). Allah (swa) will send him back before the end of time to show that he was alive all the time. It his he, who will kill the Jews and their leader Dajaal.
2) Some 'ulama have said that Hadrat Eesa (as) found many virtues in the followers of Prophet Muhammad (saw) in the Bible and thus he prayed to Allah (swa) to make him one of them. Allah accepted his prayer and so will return him for the second time as one of the followers of Prophet Muhammad (saw).
3) It is the law of Allah (swa) that anything created from the earth has to return to the earth and not the heavens. Thus He will return to earth for a second time, kill the Dajaal, live for a period of time, die a physical death and be buried alongside the Prophet (saw) in Medina.

Hadrat Eesa (as) And The Ya`juj And Ma`juj

A long time ago, the barbarous tribes of Ya'juj and M'juj (Gog & Magog)[7] ran riot and caused havoc in their time and thus were imprisoned by Zulqarnain[8] behind an iron wall which he built.

A short period after Hadrat Eesa (as) has killed the Dajaal, the Ya`juj and Ma`juj will break free with Allah's will. Allah (swa) will inform and instruct Hadrat Eesa (as) to take the Muslims to Mount Tur for their own protection as nobody will be able to confront, fight or even defend

[7]the emergence of which is also a major sign of Qiyamah

[8] A pious king who lived at the time of Hadrat Ibraheem (as) and ruled a large part of the world.

themselves against them.

Once Hadrat Eesa (as) has reached the Mount Tur Allah (swa) will release the Ya`juj and Ma`juj. They will swiftly swarm from every mound causing destruction and havoc wherever they go. They will not pass any building without destroying it, any food without eating it or any water without drinking it. Their first batch will pass Lake Tiberias and drink all its water and by the time their last batch reaches the same lake, they will say, "There used to be water here at one time!" Ya`juj and Ma`juj will then proceed towards Mount Khamr in Jerusalem and say, "We have killed the inhabitants of the earth let us now kill the inhabitants of the skies." They will shoot arrows towards the sky and Allah (swa) will return them stained with blood and the fools will think that they have killed the inhabitants of the skies.

Meanwhile Hadrat Eesa (as) and the believers will be besieged and running short of food supplies, a bull's head will be more dear and valuable at that time than a hundred gold coins are today. Hadrat Eesa (as) and the Muslims will pray to Allah (swa) to end the nightmare. Allah, The Merciful will send a swarm of insects which will bite the Ya`juj and Ma`juj on their necks.

The following morning no noise or any kind of sound will be heard from them, the Muslims will say, "Who will sell himself for the sake of Allah and find out what has happened to them." A volunteer will slowly come down the

mountain fearing that they might kill him, however to his surprise he will find all of them dead and piled on top of each other. "Good news, our enemy has been destroyed," he will shout. Hadrat Eesa (as) and his companions will come and find the earth filled with a foul smell from the rotting corpses. Hadrat Eesa (as) will pray to Allah (swa) for the second time. This time Allah (swa) will send birds with necks like Bactarian camels which will carry the corpses of Ya'juj and Ma'juj and throw them where Allah wills. Thereafter Allah will send rain to cleanse the earth.

Hadrat Eesa (as) As A Just Ruler (Khalif)

The Prophet (saw) said, "**By him in whose hand my life is in, surely the Son of Maryam will come down amongst you as a just ruler. He will break the cross, kill the pig and abolish the tax. Wealth will be in such abundance that none will care about it and a single prostration in prayer will be better than the world and all that is in it.**"

The above hadith clearly indicates that when Hadrat Eesa (as) returns to earth for the second time, he will not reign as a prophet and nor will he bring a new Shari'ah (system of law) or religion, as Islam is the last religion, Qur`an is the last book to be revealed and Prophet Muhammad (saw) is the last of the prophets. No prophet will come after him as the Qur`an has made this concept very clear. Allah (swa) says in the Qur`an, "**Muhammad is not the father of any**

of you but is the Messenger of Allah and the *last* of the prophets."

When Hadrat Eesa (as) returns for the second time he will reign as a Khalif (head of the Islamic state, a successor to the Prophet (saw)) and not as a prophet, he will follow the Qur`an and Sunnah and rule according to it. He will break the cross; bring an end to Christianity and will elevate and spread Islam as the only acceptable religion.

He will also kill the pig, which the Christians consider halaal to eat and abolish the tax (payable by non-Muslims). In hadrat Eesa (as) reign there will be no need for this tax because firstly, he will accept nothing but Islam from the non believers and all will accept him as their leader; the Qur`an says, "There is not a single section of the people of the book (Jews and Christians) but will believe in him and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them." Secondly, there will be so much wealth in his time that it will flow like water, not a body will remain who would benefit from this money.

Blessings at the Time of Hadrat Eesa (as)

All types of blessings will descend on earth during his reign. Wealth will flow like water, everyone will be independent and have enough wealth and property to the extent that nobody will be in need of Zakat (tax for the needy) and Sadaqa (charity) thus there collection will be discarded. All hearts will be free from misery, envy, malice and jeal-

ousy. Every harmful animal will be made harmless. Camels will graze with lions and the cheetahs with cattle. A little girl will chase a lion like children chase a puppy. Venom will be taken out from all poisonous animals; a little boy will put his hand in a snake's mouth without coming to any harm. The Jackal will live with the sheep and protect them as if it were a sheep dog. There will be complete harmony and tranquillity in the world, people will live in agreement, wars will cease, the earth will be filled with peace and prosperity and it will sprout with vegetation like at the time of Hadrat Adam (as). The fertility of the land will be such that if a seed were planted in a hard rock, it would sprout. 700 mud of wheat (measure of weight) will sprout without ploughing the land. The earth will produce such fruit that when a large group of people sit to eat a bunch of grapes or a pomegranate, they will be completely satisfied by it, using its peel as an umbrella. There will also be barakah (blessing) in milk. The milk of a single she-camel will be sufficient to satisfy the appetite of a large group of people, a cow will produce what is sufficient for a tribe of people and a sheep will produce enough milk for a family. Horses will be cheap, as they will never be ridden in war whereas bulls will be expensive, as they will be needed to plough the land. Life will be very pleasant and enjoyable after his descension and Muslims will live in tranquillity under his reign as a Khalif (leader of the Muslims).

Marriage

Many Ahadith specify that after his descension he will marry and have children and remain on earth for a period of 19 years after his marriage (Al-Fitan Nuaim bin Hammad).

Death

Hadrat Eesa (as) after his return to earth for a second time will live for a period of time (some scholars have mentioned 40 years) and thereafter die a physical death. The Muslims will perform his Janaza (funeral prayer) and according to the hadith narrated by Abdullah bin Amr in Mishkat he will be buried alongside the Holy Prophet (saw) in Medina.

Christmas and Muslims

Festivals in secular (non religious) societies are established on customs and traditions and differ from religious festivals in that the focus is not on the significance of the rituals of holy days of the faith but on public honouring of outstanding persons, re-creation of cherished folklore or the celebration of rulers or gods.

Christmas is one such secular festival that is held annu-

ally on December 25th, claiming to celebrate the birth of Eesa (as). The origin of the festival is unknown, but scholars believe that it is derived from pagan rites held by pre-Christian Germanic and Celtic peoples to celebrate the winter solstice (a time when the sun is farthest from the earth).

Christians have generally observed Christmas since the 4th century –that is around 300 years after Christ's departure, before this there is no mention of it in the Christian calendar. It was around this time (300 A.D) when Christianity was evolving from a persecuted minority to the state religion of the Roman Empire. Due to this sudden change in fortune, Christians struggled with defining their own faith. They began to establish patterns of worship. They began to mould the religion in a form, which would appeal to the masses, being inspired by cults, rituals and thoughts that were prominent with pagan Romans and Greeks.

The timing of many secular festivals is determined by certain periods of the solar or lunar calendar, a very popular time was the end of the year (December) and the shortest day of the year (December 22nd). Adopting this new faith would mean leaving the old heathen, paganistic ways behind. But not fully convinced with Christianity and being attached to certain pagan rites, they decided to celebrate Christ's birth around this time, killing two birds with one stone!

As we can see the celebration of Christmas is not from

Christianity and nor was it celebrated by his disciples. Its roots are from pagan customs, from people who worshipped idols and fire. For Christians to claim they are rejoicing Christ's birth is a grave injustice to Christ himself because it is something he did not encourage himself and by getting the date so wrong is like adding salt to the wound.

Christmas is no more than a modified pagan event with Christian religious overtones. For Muslims to take part or to be involved in any way, in Christmas or in any other event, which is associated with polytheists, Jews or the Christians is strictly forbidden. It is reported by Ibn Umar that the Prophet (saw) said "**Who ever imitates some people, he becomes one of them**" (Abu Daud). It is clear from this hadith that if a Muslim imitates or copies any people other than Muslims he will become one of them, if he does not behave like a Muslim has he the right to be called one!

In another hadith reported by Abu Sa'eed al-Khudree the Prophet (saw) warned "**You (Muslims) will follow the practices of your predecessors (Jews and Christians) inch by inch and yard by yard, so much that if they were to enter a lizards hole, you would also follow them.**" (Agreed) This is a damning hadith for those who see nothing wrong with being involved in Christmas or any other non-Muslim event. The hadith clearly states Islam's position on accepting or taking part in celebrations that are not from Islam.

There are many other Ahadith which instruct Muslims

to be different, to act different from the non-believers;

"...act different to the fire worshippers."
"...do not imitate the Jews and Christians."

It is therefore very clear that ***following or imitating the Kaafir in anything that is particular or that can be identified with them is strictly forbidden.***

It is essential that Muslims have a clear understanding of Islam's position on such issues, especially in these times when many take part in such celebrations be it knowingly or unknowingly. Therefore buying or accepting Christmas presents, putting up decorations, sending Christmas cards and buying sweets linked with the occasion are all forbidden. All come under the category of imitating and following the Kaafir.

Many Muslims living in the West find themselves in a difficult situation, especially in the working environment. Seeing everybody else involved in the Christmas mood many are coerced to go along with the spirit. Many even go to the extreme of making up excuses, saying that they don't really believe in it, but are just going along, just a little, to show that Islam is flexible and besides, being a Muslim doesn't mean that you have to be odd, unsociable or unfriendly. It's one thing knowing that what one's doing is wrong but to justify wrong actions using Islam is extremely sinful. Sending a card may appear insignificant to some but it's considered the same as drinking a drop of alcohol,

would these people allow just a few drops? If something is haraam, it's haraam regardless of the extent or amount. One has to realise that is one happy to disobey his Lord and give into peer pressure just to keep face in this society. On the Day of Reckoning when he faces his Lord with this flimsy excuse, he'd wish he was never born.

Many Muslims keep away from activities which are particular to the non-Muslims, simply by saying they don't take part. It is much easier to make one's position clear from the beginning, that way a professional relationship can be built on mutual respect and understanding, without any grievances or excuses later on.

Published By

And their saying "We killed Jesus عليه السلام son of Mary the Messenger of Allah سبحانه وتعالى", but they killed him not nor crucified him but it was made to appear to them and those who differ concerning it are full of doubts, they have no certain knowledge and follow only conjecture, for surely they killed him not.

But Allah سبحانه وتعالى raised him up unto himself and Allah سبحانه وتعالى is Exalted in Power, Wise.

And there is none of the People of the Book but must believe in him before his death and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them.

SURAH AN-NISA'

£2

AL MA'HADUL ISLAMI - ISLAMIC ACADEMY
40 GREAVES STREET
BRADFORD BD5 7PE
01274 575600